TG178 Excellent autobiography Business in Chardon: Growth of industry from farming to manufacturing.

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY KENT, OHIO 44240

Narrator: Anderson Alvin Allyn
Address:

Birthdate: May 10, 1911 at 4:30 p.m.
Birthplace: Chardon, Ohio

Interviewer: Maude Beech
Address:

Date of Interview: July 16, 1979

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Narrator: Anderson Allyn (AA)
Interviewer: Maude Beech (MB)
Date: July 16, 1979

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MB: What is your name?

AA: My name is Anderson Alvin Allyn. The Anderson is my mother's father's first name and Alvin is my father's father's first name. That's how I ended up with Anderson Alvin Allyn.

MB: Names are interesting.

AA: I was born at on the tenth of May 1911 at 4:30 p.m. in the afternoon. My address is where I have lived in the same house since 1945 having built it that year and the year before. But there's quite a gap between 1945 and 1911, and that I think is what you want me to talk about first.

MB: Fill it in first.

AA: The reason I know I was born at 4:30 was because the local paper said so. I've been reading the local microfilmed copies of the papers back around my birthdate to run down some genealogical facts. I came across my own birth one day. It lit my memory and there it is.

MB: There used to be quite a bit of detail in anything they published.

AA: They gave the time I was born, my weight, and the whole business.

MB: That was a big event.

AA: ~~Oh, yes, an event here in town. In fact~~, back in 1911 it was an event when somebody had a telephone installed in their house and duly recorded. The first five years of my life was spent down on North Hambden Street, the house I was born in. My father was the country physician which meant that in 1911 and up to 1916 that he used horses for transportation in the wintertime. And on good days in the summertime when the roads dried up, he had a car that he'd take down off the blocks that was in the barn and he'd drive a car in the summertime. But basically he got around with teams of horses. He had some matched Morgans that were beautiful horses as I remember. He had to have a barn man who lived in the village here. In the early teens it was perfectly proper and correct, besides keeping maybe four to six horses, we had a village cow and we had a few chickens as I recall. The cow gave us fresh Jersey cream every morning. The labor was supplied by the barn man who took care of the horses, so we had our own built-in dairy products besides fresh eggs.

MB: Would it be somebody who was known around?

AA: I can't remember his name. Possibly my Aunt Neva would know, but I can't think of his name. Maybe I'll wake up some night and say that was so and so. I can remember what he looked like, but I can't think of his name.

MB: Did he drive for him too?

AA: Not very much.

MB: Did somebody or did he do his own?

AA: Dad did his own driving. He was about thirty some years old when I was born and a country physician in the early teens went to the patient. The only time a patient came to you was when he was walking wounded or he had to go to the hospital for a major operation. Other than that Dad delivered children and performed the terminal rights for patients all over the area around Chardon here. I can remember back when I was just a child, just a small boy, before we moved to Cleveland which was when I was five years old, before that if I had been a good boy and my mother knew about when Dad was going to get back, I was allowed to walk down to the end of the driveway and then get in the buggy and ride up to the barn and Dad would bring me back in the house then. This was my idea of something else to get in this buggy with a team of horses and come up the driveway. We had a very steep driveway. It seemed steep to me when I was three or four years old I remember. It isn't so steep now when I go down through there. It was quite a sight though. The horses would have to get down in their harness to get the buggy up the incline. This was on North Hambden Street right here in the village. Dad did buy, the year I was born as I've looked up, a run-down farm that was located at the corner of where Chardon Avenue and MapleAvenue would intersect if they had been extended which they weren't at the time. There was a dirt trail to get over to it. It ended up he bought the property around there and by the late 1920's or 1930's he had over a hundred acres in the northeast corner of the village of Chardon, all within the incorporated limits of the village.

His great passion in life was to raise apple trees so he planted apple trees with the greatest of abandon. He would plant a dozen of this kind and a dozen of that kind. He went to the state agricultural seminars on fruit growing and we had a sprayer and the whole works over there.

As I started to say, when I was five years old Dad decided, after the birth of my younger brother, my only brother...

MB: What's his name?

AA: ...Wilfred Earl. He's a junior; he was named after my father, Wilfred Earl Allyn.

MB: How much younger is he?

Start here

AA: He's two or three years younger. It all depends on the time of year you take his and my dates together. Dad and Mother had a rough time getting ~~us both~~ my brother Wilfred Earl, Jr through our infancy. There was nobody in the county, in this area at least in the county, who had any kind of pediatric background as far as the medicinal world goes. So Dad decided he would become an instant pediatrician. So he went down to Harvard the summer of 1916 and took the courses that were available in pediatrics. I can remember driving down there.

MB: This is Harvard?

That was at

AA: This is Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts. We had an automobile accident in 1916 which was quite an event in 1916. We went around a corner and there was a guy on the wrong side of the road and he couldn't get over and we couldn't get away from him so we had some damage to the car which happened to be, I think, a 1915 Dodge touring car. In those days when you had an accident, you had an accident. You were laid up at that point until you could get a local mechanic to order the parts to put your car together

again. So we were somewhere around Salamanca, New York, for maybe a week waiting for the parts to put the car back together again. So we were ten days or more going from Chardon to Boston. When we got to Boston we got a furnished apartment down at Marblehead which is a suburb on the ocean at Boston. I can remember two or three things about Boston. I can remember the interned Varland, the big German North Lloyd Express Liner that was interned there by the U.S. government even though we weren't in the war yet. And I can remember seeing the three-horse teams on a hook and wagon company go tearing up our street which is quite a sight. Nothing has ever taken the place of a three-horse galloping team of horses on a fire engine as far as I'm concerned. They used steamers of course, steam pumpers, and then the hook and ladders were magnificent operations. They had great big wooden ladders and about six or eight great big guys hanging on there to run the big wooden ladders. Quite a sight.

Then we came back, and when we came back from Harvard with his post graduate courses in pediatrics, we promptly moved into Cleveland.

MB: Where did he get his first training, in Cleveland?

AA: Cleveland Homeopathic College, Medical College.

MB: That was quite the thing in his day, wasn't it?

AA: It finally ended up as part of Western Reserve I believe. But in the early 1900's I think he went to school two years to get a doctor of medicine degree instead of eight like it is now.

MB: Well, they did all they could with what they had and they couldn't teach them any more probably.

AA: He learned all there was to learn, I guess, as far as printed knowledge goes. Then they came out and it was literally a cut and try operation, a great deal of the medical knowledge at the time. We moved into Cleveland. We moved into 2670 East Boulevard which is a glorified name for 116th Street between Woodland Avenue and where they were constructing the Shaker Rapid Transit Line.

leave this in

MB: Was that under construction then?

AA: That was under construction then and of course it was all steam engines, steam construction. I had a great place to go and watch things. I used to go and watch them dig the tracks down the rapid transit at 116th Street is one level below the street, so they had to take out a tremendous amount of dirt, and they moved it with steam trains and steam shovels and automatic dump cars which carried about a quarter of what the ordinary boxcar did. They got it chewed out and got the rapid transit in, and as soon as they got the rapid transit in, they started to build at the other end of our street more or less, a couple blocks north of us, the Baldwin Filtration Plant, which was the biggest underground portable water reservoir in the world at the time they built it. It covered, I guess, about three or four city blocks under cover, all covered over so there was no dirt or debris that got into it after they had it filtered. That was all done by steam trains. And they carried the DIRT they took out of the hole by steam trains up to the East Boulevard cut where East Boulevard goes down into Wade Park. I don't know how many yards of earth they moved there, but they made a whole newlevel. In fact, they've got a street now that goes up

top here

to Shaker Heights when you go eastbound on Cedar and Carnegie and go up the hill, you go up the street that's made out of fill from the Baldwin Reservoir. So for about three or four years during World War I and two or three years afterwards, we had all this construction going on. It was a great place for kids to play.

MB: Were they regular steam engines that came in? They weren't on any tracks?

AA: Oh, yes, they had tracks and they were able to bring them in. I think they would bring them in on the streetcar tracks and then laid temporary tracks over to the site and then got them back that way. They didn't have any other way of hauling equipment.

MB: I wondered how they.... It sounded like big equipment.

AA: It was, it was big steam shovels and switching locomotives. But a steam locomotive is quite a sight to a small boy.

MB: Especially today they are too.

AA: Right. As soon as we moved to Cleveland--the farm we couldn't move, the farm was out in Chardon--so the last day of school every summer, Mother would pack us up and Dad would bring Mother and my brother and myself out to Chardon to the farm. We would stay out here at the farm with more or less a straight summer deal until school got ready to start in the fall. So I was a summer resident of Chardon when I wasn't a full time resident here from being born here in 1911 until I guess, until we got married. I'd come out here and visit my folks at least, after I got through school. The farm was still an operating entity. In fact, it got bigger and bigger. By the time World War came along, we had everything over at the farm there. We had Belgian mares. We raised our own horses. We had Belgian mares that we bred and had some colts. We had some Jersey cows for milk. We had pigs and chickens and ducks and turkeys and sheep. We had quite a flock of Hampshire sheep because the orchard made a wonderful place to pasture the sheep and stock.

MB: You know Lou Stanton and I for years made it a point in apple blossom time to go down in that orchard and we just soaked it in. It was beautiful out there.

AA: I've only got a few pictures that was taken by dad's office mate, a Doctor Barr. He was a photographer back when they used big cameras and big equipment and he came out and took pictures of the orchard, the apple blossoms, the peach blossoms and cherry blossoms.

MB: I can smell them yet.

AA: It was a great sight and the sheep just dressed the place up like it was a golf course. They kept the grass right down and beautiful.

MB: Did you have help taking care of it?

AA: Oh, yes, we had two tenant houses. The houses across the street from the farmhouse were where the tenants lived, the so-called farmhands. We had either one or two families as long as we had the farm in operation. We had to have somebody take care of the stock. So we all the amenities that went had

with a farm such as we made butter, Mother made Dutch cheese, cottage cheese, we had cream. And we had lobbered milk. I don't know if that's the correct pronunciation, but that's what our family came up with was lobbered milk, clabbered milk.

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MB: Clabbered milk too.

AA: This was made by putting raw milk on the kitchen table at night and keeping it at room temperature and by morning, if the right bacteria had flown by or were in the milk, the milk would have come up to the consistency of junket almost, ~~a very free and loose~~....

yogurt

MB: A summertime dish.

AA: It was delicious. The Jersey cow's cream was coarse enough literally so it would get dry on top so you'd have a crust like frosting. Cottage cheese or clabbered milk with a very rich yellow cream on top. That was a delicacy that you don't get any more.

stop here

MB: No, it wouldn't taste, if you tried to do it with homogenized milk you couldn't do it in the first place.

Oh yes you can! D.R.

AA: You can't do it with homogenized and you can't do it with pasteurized milk; it's got to be done with raw milk, right out of the cow.

MB: Well, we used to have it once in a while, but it wasn't a delicate thing. My father, he didn't like it. Mother and I once in a while would have a little on our own.

AA: Mother used to put sugar on it, so I got used to putting a little sugar on it.

MB: Kids always had to have sugar on things and then you'd eat it.

AA: Yes. We had a sugar bush that we ran in the spring. When I was eight or ten years old, Dad got about 5,000 pine evergreen seedlings, different kinds of pines trees I guess they mostly were, from the state or from the federal government, I don't know which. These we put in long rows east of Maple Avenue. When they got through the first two or three winters, we started and transplanted them. Now the whole northeast corner of the village and out towards Hambden for a mile or more, they're downwind from these trees, there's a self-seeded pine woods coming back in. It's amazing how it's repropagated now, it's resettling. When we moved out there when I was a kid, there was no pine in the woods at all, zero pine. It had all been logged off by the first settlers. All it was was hardwood trees.

MB: Do you feel that those people who--not the first settlers because they planted trees around the houses, farmhouses. And you can pretty well tell an old farmhouse if there is still an old pine tree there. Didn't they have a thing among themselves that they didn't want pine trees, they couldn't stand to have them moan in the wind.

AA: I guess they were a mournful tree to listen to and they also made excellent house material. The soft white pines made beautiful houses. You took it to the local water powered sawmills or steam powered sawmills and ran up your wood and you were able to build yourself a house made out of two by fours, siding, and all that stuff, all that good stuff instead of a log cabin.

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But the last 20 or 30 years we've got an amazing resurgence of pine now and they're all self-seeded mostly. The trees that I helped put out 50 years ago are mature trees now.

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MB: I think one of the first black and white pictures I took in the wintertime was that, I called it a lane.

AA: Those rows of trees. They went down to the so-called, the girls' cottage down there. Georgiana Downing and there was a couple of sisters that lived down there, the three gals had a cottage down there that they bought. People by the name of Bowman who built it originally back in the early twenties.

MB: B-O-W-M-A-N?

AA: Yes. I'm sure that was a Bowman.

MB: You don't have a first name?

AA: No, maybe I'll find something some place about it because I'm still getting prints made of stuff. I'm going through negatives. As an aside here, I've just inherited about 150 glass plates and negatives from Jack Maynard's place and I'm getting those things printed up, see what they are and see whether I should get slides made up or not. Marjorie is cleaning out the old negatives.

MB: I thought she had done that before.

AA: She does it every year. And then Jack threw away a couple of wheelbarrows full before he died. He told me one day after he'd done it. They weren't any good any more. That's the way it goes, though, as far as old pictures go.

We've gone back to the childhood and youth of the Allyn family here. When we first came out to stay over at what turned out to be 222 Maple Avenue when the streets were finally numbered and so on, the first few summers we had a well in the front yard and that was it. Then we got a phone, some small poles and they strung some wires to get the telephone wires over so we had a crank it and ring it on the wall telephone, party line phone over there. Then we had the well in the front yard and then we had our own amenities as far as sewage goes out in the back yard. It was back in an alcove made out of split rails. We went out and got the zig-zag fencing and we put wild cucumber plants around that and the wild cucumbers would grow up over the zig zagging so we had an arbor effect to get out to our convenience out in the back yard. It made a great place to climb and fool around when you were eight or ten years old because they'd pile them up I guess about five feet high, criss-cross stuff. They were still being used then. They went out and got some zig-zag fence from somebody who was putting it up.

MB: They were used until the twenties weren't they?

AA: Well, this was the early twenties when we did this. They put in electricity so that we had electricity over there. When electricity came over there, that was really putting us on the map. We could call uptown and get our groceries ordered and then King's Central Store would bring them over either in the morning or the afternoon. They had two deliveries a day I remember. If it worked out just right, I might be able to walk uptown and then ride with the delivery guy who had a Model T truck. And for a while it was Jack Maynard

or Jim Hiland who ran the Model T delivery truck, go all over Chardon delivering boxes of groceries.

MB: Did you help?

AA: Oh, yes, sure they made you run around if you were going to ride in the truck.

MB: If you were going to ride, you had to do something.

AA: Had to take the boxes. Those boxes were folding wooden boxes. Burgesses used the same boxes as King's did. They folded right flat so they could kick a whole bunch of them back.

MB: Kind of like a crate.

AA: So I remember what they looked like and what they sounded like when your'd slap them up together. Summer was a real good time out here. We had Rocky Cellar to play in. Below Rocky Cellar was a sugar house, and the sugar house was in a pasture and the orchard was in a different pasture. A lot of blackberry bushes so we had blackberries to pick in the summertime. This was all over at the corner of Maple and Chardon. Then after World War II, I guess it was, they decided to put sewer and water lines over there. But before that we had put in our own pumps as long as we had electricity. We had a well in the front yard that pumped the water for our house and three tenant houses. By that time we had three tenant houses. And the barn and the chicken coop and the orchard for the spraying in the spring. We had an inch and a half water main around. We had our own private system over there and it worked like a ding-dong for maybe fifteen or twenty years until they put city water in.

MB: Then you didn't have good water, but a little more convenient.

AA: Well, it was a lot easier to take care of things.

MB: Of course the early water was good.

AA: As long as the belt didn't break or the power go off on your pump, you were all right. Of course you had to keep it from freezing in the wintertime. It was kind of a problem, but it worked.

We had Barred Plymouth Rocks. I remember we raised Barred Plymouth Rock chickens. They made the best fryers in the summertime of any chicken as far as I was concerned. Even those Rhode Island Reds. In late August we would be having five and six and seven pound fryers. They were raised on the ground. They totally taste different.

MB: That's what made them taste good. The chickens that have had some exercise.

AA: They chased the bugs and ate the grass.

MB: I think it was the exercise more than anything else though that made the meat good.

AA: It wasn't uncommon late in the fall to have a so-called eight or ten pound fryer. They were tremendous animals. One of those would make a meal for a

whole family. We had fryers from the time they were up to the fryer weight until we had them all eaten in the fall every year. Of course the hens we kept and the pullets we kept and the hired man would take them across the road and put them in the chicken coop to get some eggs.

Dad's orchard progressed along until in the late thirties we'd have crops of maybe three to four thousand bushels of apples which was quite a small business. He never made any money, but we had an awful lot of fun, I know. We put in a grader and we'd hire high school kids on their Saturdays and Sundays to come over and pick apples by the bushel, I think we paid them piece work. We had the team to go down through the orchard, use one of the teams of Belgian mares to go down and get the apples and bring them up to storage. They had to be washed and cleaned and graded and then shipped someplace.

MB: You shipped them or sold them in Cleveland?

AA: Well, we shipped them into Cleveland basically. We didn't ship them any distance. They were sold locally. Somebody would come by and buy them at the farm or we'd take some few dozen bushels into Cleveland into the Farmers' Market. And I had quite a produce route where we lived. I'd take my little wagon and take corn and apples and go door to door around the neighborhood because people in the neighborhood knew we had a farm. I'd sell corn for 25¢ a dozen I guess. I don't know how much the apples were but I remember getting 25¢ a dozen for corn.

MB: Were there neighbor kids out here that you....

AA: Not too many. At the corner of Maple and Chardon, the nearest neighbor was actually Jake Saare. He was up the street. He was a plasterer and a brick mason and so on that lived.... You remember Jake do you?

MB: Yes, I do.

AA: S-A-A-R-E, Saare, two A's, Finnish. He lived in the last house on Chardon Avenue on the north side. Then from Jake's house all the way down to the corner was our potato field, so-called potato field which is the front lawn of the high school now. That was either corn or potatoes as I remember. Our farm went up that far, all the way up to Jake Saare's.

MB: A lot of ground all over everywhere.

AA: It came all the way up through to North Street where the present Allynd Blvd. comes through. The vineyard was up back of our house along the Wilmot line. Wilmots had about a six acre pasture where they kept their family cow. There was some problem about something between Charley, Mable and my father and mother about the land division. Charley was going to swap land for land so that he could have lots on Allynd Boulevard. And when they got right down to the dotted line, he was unhappy with it so he never signed it. So he had a pasture back there for fifteen or twenty years. When Allynd Boulevard was cut through, he just touched it and that's all. So we had to wait until Charley and Mabel both were collected to their ancestors and then I was able to make a deal with King. (King Wilmot, their son) King wasn't mad at me and I wasn't mad at King so we bought for cash his land and finished up the rest of Allynd Boulevard then, through there, and had the land left

over that has presently got the apartments on it on Downing.

MB: Was your father involved in the war?

AA: In the First World War he received a commission as a doctor, of course, and never served. I guess he went down and was on one of the crews that gave physicals to the inductees, but he never left home. He had his commission on the wall I remember while we lived on East Boulevard. He built a house in 1929. He had an architect design a house and he bought some land and he had it built at 3311 Lee Road in Shaker Heights. We moved up there in the fall of 1928 I believe it was. In the meantime I'd gone to Cleveland Public School system for my elementary school. I went to East Boulevard School for the first six grades and then I went to Audubon Junior High School for my seventh and eighth grades. Then I transferred out of there and went to Shaker Heights High School. Back in the twenties you could be a non-resident pupil.

END OF SIDE ONE
SIDE TWO

...miles from our house up to the Shaker Heights High School. I could take the rapid transit or Dad could take me so I commuted for the year that we were building the house. Then we moved up on Lee Road and then I was able to walk to school. I graduated from Shaker in 1929. Our 50th class reunion is the 25th of August this year. Fiftieth class reunion, never had one before. The first one is the fiftieth and I want to be at the hundredth, too.

MB: You'll never make it.

AA: For the long-livers that is.

MB: Your father had a sister, Mabel.

AA: Frances Mable Allyn who was a very unusual woman. She was a brilliant gal who graduated from Chardon High School and taught school for a year or two out here and could see that was a one-way street. So she decided to become a nurse and went into Cleveland, signed up and enrolled at--oh, she went to Hiram for a year or two--and then transferred and went to Huron Road Hospital School of Nursing on Huron Road, about East 6th and Huron Road in Cleveland. She graduated from there in 1916 I think. At that time the Crile Unit was being activated, the so-called Crile Unit by Doctor George Crile. This was at the suggestion of the state department and the American Red Cross, they sent over a non-combatent unit to participate in World War I as a complete base hospital staff. They went over and were the first American uniformed forces. They weren't armed forces, they were uniformed forces to enter into World War I. They were over there in April or May of 1916.

MB: Where? Lt. George Ely Russell, my husband, was a member, of Russells

AA: They arrived in England and the King and Queen had a tea for them. Then they went to Belgium and the King and Queen had a tea for them. Then they went down to France out by the Rouen, outside of Rouen, and set up a base hospital.

MB: Do you know how to spell that?

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AA: R-O-U-E-N isn't it? Anyway, it's not far from the Paris area. It was a British based hospital, but the British had run out of doctors and staff for it so the Americans hung a United States flag up and it became the first American base hospital in World War I, so-called Crile Unit. Frances was over there all through World War I, came back and was discharged. She got a commission as a nurse, they were commissioned nurses which was kind of the female counterpart of a first or second lieutenant. She had two stripes on her hat so I guess she was a first lieutenant. I think, I'm not sure. But I know the marker down at the cemetery says nurse, American, USA. She was one of the few from here that went in.

MB: She and Aura Harrison.

AA: Yes, and the Fowler boys, they went. They were orderlies. Then she got into public health nursing and was public health nurse in this area for a while, and then transferred down to Middletown and was down there for several years, came back up here after 1938, after her mother died, my grandmother died, lived in Chardon again for a few years, then moved to Dunedin, Florida, and joined the public health staff in Pinelias County. Clearwater being the county seat of Pinelias County and Dunedin as a suburb of Clearwater. She lived there until she retired. She retired--I can't tell you when, Maude, but I know I got her interested in traveling by freighters and she and I took a freighter voyage about 1953-54, maybe 1958. It was when the Seaway first opened. I guess it was about 1957 or 1958. We got on a Scotch freighter in Cleveland and went down the Seaway on this little Scotch freighter that went all the way to Newfoundland and picked up Forty Fathom Fillets. That's when they used to sell Forty Fathom Fish Fillets, frozen, in the markets. They did this for two or three years when the seaway first opened. She was enchanted by freighter life and so was I and she had more time than I did and more money so she traveled more than I did. She and I made two or three trips together. Then I got Georgiana Richards, my secretary, talked into going with Mable, and they traveled extensively together. They traveled all of Europe down through Greece and the Adriatic and the Mediterranean. They did the whole bit, all around, back in the early sixties when there were a lot of passenger carrying freighters around. In fact, Mable and I were on a voyage together from Montreal, we went from Montreal up around the lakes and come back to Montreal, we were going, but she had an accident on board and fell and hit her head and that was the start of her terminal illness. She had had a slight stroke and she was recovering from that and she slipped on the ship and whacked her head and it happened in port, in Cleveland. We had my wife and my kids and Georgiana and her husband on the ship to have dinner because the ship was the same ship my wife and I had been on four other times before. This was our fifth voyage on the same ship so I knew the crew very well. We got to Cleveland and we had this party on board. After the party, Mable went out on deck and stepped on a hatch cover the wrong way and went down and whacked her head and we took her to the hospital the next morning because she didn't seem to be bouncing back too well on the ship. They operated on her and she never recovered. So she never was really sick a day which was exactly how she wanted to end up. She always talked to me about the possibility of a lady with no dependents having a long lingering illness and what would happen to her.

MB: I guess that everybody in that situation does a bit of thinking about it, and then you decide you'll live a day at a time.

AA: She had a little discomfort when she fell, but she never had any problem about being bed-bound.

MB: I had known her, just meeting her. She was always an admiring thing in my soul I guess because she seemed so positive and she knew what she wanted and if she didn't get it, she made sure she did get it if she wanted something. That's the way she impressed me.

AA: She was completely self-sufficient and she could be self-sufficient in a foreign country on a foreigh ship. She was a package by herself. She and Georgiana traveled a great deal together, she and I traveled together, and we got along fine. She had her own style and her own way of doing things and you soon learned to let her do her own thing and you do your thing, you'd be all right, but there wasn't very much leading going on either way. We had parallel paths of interest and we got along fine. She was a great lady. What would you like me to get off on now?

MB: Well, let's get back to your father. I suppose he was with some hospital in Cleveland?

AA: Yes, he was on a staff when we first moved in there, he was on the staff at Women's Hospital, Huron Road Hospital, and Glenville Hospital. This puts us back in the days when all those hospitals had specialities and in the days when Glenville was completely white.

MB: Looks like they're going back to that specialization too, doesn't it?

AA: I guess so. These hospitals, if Dad had a patient who was going to have a baby, he'd take her to Women's Hospital; if they were going to have an operation, they'd take them to either Huron Road or to Glenville. Glenville is where I had my tonsils out when I was ten years old. Mable got after my father and told him that now was the time I should get my tonsils out before I got any older. I had badly infected tonsils and I had a lot of coldsk and it was necessary to have it done. So he finally got off dead center and I went over and had my tonsils out, an operation with a capital O back in 1922.

MB: Yes, anything was. Sometimes you hear people say doctor's children and wife were the last ones to have any medical attention whatever, but I had an idea he'd move.

AA: Well, Mable was the accelerator in the family. She made sure that people were taken care of properly. While my Mother, my brother, and myself were out here in Chardon in the summertime, Dad would come out Saturday afternoon after office hours and stay out here Saturday night and all day Sunday and go back into Cleveland on Monday morning.

MB: Where was his office?

AA: His first office was 10208 Euclid Avenue in a building that's still standing. It's hard to believe it's the same, it isn't the same neighborhood but it's the same building. It was there in 1916 I guess. Back in the twenties--I was talking about Dad commuting back and forth. Then he would go into Cleveland on Monday morning and stay at 2670 East Boulevard until Wednesday afternoon. Wednesday afternoon he didn't have any office hours. Then he'd come out Wednesday afternoon and play out at the farm and overnight and go back into

Cleveland Thursday morning.

MB: Did he drive out?

AA: He would drive out in the summertime. It was a nice drive. It would take a good hour to drive out, or more, an hour and a half. And he had a housekeeper that stayed in Cleveland to take care of the house in Cleveland so he didn't have to batch it in there. So then Mother and Bill and myself would be out here in Chardon.

MB: Was he ever back in Chardon?

AA: He didn't practice back in Chardon. When he moved to Cleveland, he sold the house that we lived in, 224 North Hambden Street, to his brother-in-law, to Fred Basquin, who also was a doctor. Fred was mother's brother. Fred and Bessie were doctoring at that stage and residing in Hartsgrove. Fred wanted to get into the big city business so he left his practice, or sold it, I'm not sure which, and bought Dad's place and Mother's house on North Hambden Street, and Dad's practice, and moved into Chardon and Dad moved into Cleveland so there were two doctors making the move, changing chairs as it were. So Uncle Fred bought his practice out here so Dad didn't practice in Chardon until Uncle Fred finished up. When Uncle Fred finished up, Dad was going to move to Chardon, back out to Chardon, they rebuilt the house over at the farm, which by that time had acquired the name Happy Hobby, which was Dad's idea for a name for his country place. He added on two wings which more than doubled the size of the house, in fact, it almost tripled the size of the house over there, and he had an office and a sitting room off the house so he could have an office there and practice medicine. But Dad never made it to Chardon. He went into the hospital, he'd had a stroke and he went into the hospital and he had a coronary that finished him off just like turning off a light bulb, that inclusion when the blood vessel ruptures in your heart, bing, you're off just like that. He had the common prostate operation and was recovering from that and that was when he had this blood vessel rupture in his heart and that was it. He just stopped right there. And he had the movers all scheduled to move to Chardon so we moved Mother out to Chardon and got all the stuff out here that we could get out here and stored the rest of the stuff across the road. Mother was a real pack rat. She had stuff like you wouldn't believe. We had the barn. By that time we stopped having as much stock on the farm so we cleaned out one side of the barn and she used that for what she called the barn which was really in addition to the house full of furniture and junk and stuff that she had accumulated in the last fifty years. We had a dispersal sale which was one of my classic mistakes of my adult life. It should have been all hauled away someplace and catalogued because the way it was operated, I think we lost about fifty percent of what we had there. I never realized that most antique collectors were thieves. They have to be apparently to be a successful antiquer. You buy this and your wife picks this up over here and puts it in her pocket while you're buying this. Because we had an appraisal, just one houseful of stuff over there, before we opened the doors. This was when we sold the estate after Mother died in 1968. We went in there and figured out some way to do it and I did the wrong thing. But we had a very rough appraisal at that time. We had about $14,000-$16,000 appraised for the value of the stuff in the house. Then we'd had a private sale. We didn't have enough watch dogs around there and we sold about $8,000 worth of stuff and there was nothing left.

MB: What can you tell me about Doctor Basquin?

AA: Well, he was my uncle as I said. He lived down on North Hambden Street for several years and then moved down into Cliff Quirk's house on North Street. I don't know the number of it, but it's presently the house John and Betty Gore are living in. But by the time he moved down there I'd reached my teens. And when you got to be in your teens back in the twenties, you became eligible if you knew how and everybody did, to drive a car. There was no licenses or no examinations. You just drove. So my idea of superfun was to come out and drive Uncle Fred's Model T. I can remember driving it on weekends in the fall when he'd be making calls out Thompson, Montville way. It had to be in the wintertime because I remember at least once we were past Dewey Road or someplace back where the family sprang from. The road ahead was in a hollow and it was all drifted full so Uncle Fred said, "Take it over there Andy." So there was no fence along the road so we just drove off the road, drove up and down through the fields and came back into the road again. The wheels on the old Model T's were so big and they had so much clearance that you could drive it like sort of a cross country vehicle and the roads were so bad it didn't make much difference.

MB: I know they used to drive off the road a lot.

AA: Yes. Roads were mainly to divide farms. They weren't improved very much.

MB: Was his office on Main Street?

AA: Uncle Fred's office and Dad's office were both in the same place. In fact, I've forgotten just how it was, but I can remember seeing both Dad's and Uncle Fred's name on the shingle up front. It was over the old printing office which I find was built in 1908 going through Grandpa Basquin's diaries which I'm reading now. It give the detailed blow by blow description of the building, the printing office building on the church property just north of the post office.

MB: The last building on the block.

AA: Yes, the north building there.

MB: I knew it was late. I'd have said 1912, but probably your grandfather knew what he was talking about.

AA: I've got 1908 and 1911. I think it's in the 1908 one. He talks about Wally working on the new walls again on that building. There was Dad's office up front and then Uncle Fred's up there. Back of that, back further down the hall was Doctors (Clara) Swann and (Lucy) Hertzog. Both went up the same stairs on Main Street. I can remember going up there, it must have been when we had just moved to Cleveland and we were out here visiting Uncle Fred and Aunt Bessie down at the house I was born in and I fell out of one of their swings in the back yard. I was playing with Lucille,Basquin, my cousin, and I fell out of the swing wrong and broke one arm and sprained the other at the same time coming out of the swing. I hit the ground wrong. They took me uptown to get me fixed up to Uncle Fred's office. I remember just how it smelled when we went up those stairs and how those stairs were and how they set my arm, put it back together again.

MB: He had a lot of know-how when it came to people who had pneumonia and that type of thing. Doctor Basquin lots of times would take over for somebody that had been having an awful time. It wouldn't be long before he'd have them on their feet.

AA: He had a dry laugh. He coughed and laughed together.

MB: I always said the Basquins laughed backwards. It sounded like it to me.

AA: His daughter Lucille, their only child, was exactly five years older than I was. She was born on the tenth of May, 1906, I guess that would be. I was born in 1911, because when I was five years old, she was ten and we computed that by the time she got to be ninety, I would be within five percent of her age instead of 100% younger than she was. She didn't live that long.

MB: Then your brother got into medicine too didn't he?

AA: Yes, he went to school at Philadelphia and became a doctor just about in 1941 I think. I think he graduated in 1940. We drove down to New York City to see him graduate. That was quite a deal. It took two days to drive to New York City in 1940. We got down there and I've forgotten where we stayed while we went over to the Waldorf Astoria for the banquet and the commencement exercises for his graduation. Then he came back and he was interning at Huron Road Hospital in 1941. They didn't draft him. They wanted him to stay put for some reason. He went down and reported to the draft board as I recall and got a commission the same as Dad did, but I think he was in the same boat Dad was in. I think they used him in Cleveland during the war, but not anywhere else. He wasn't like Phil Pease. Phil sure got called up.

Well, we'd come out here every summer to the farm and by the time I got into my teens, I was looking for the fair sex to go to picture shows with or do something with, so I'd have Mother invite her former friends over to the farm with their daughters to see who I could do what with. That's how I ended up with Gertrude. She came over on a request basis and she and I hit if off all right. She had free access to the picture show. She really had the inside track. They had a family box at the picture show where she could go up anytime she wanted to. That was really something.

MB: Maybe you'd better tell who she is.

AA: Gertrude Goodrich, my wife, and the only child of Clyde and Bessie Goodrich. Clyde ran the dry good store in town and he and his brother owned the picture show here in town. And he and Hart, another one of his brothers-in-law, did some real estate fiddling around. They owned the Greeks or they built the Greeks didn't they?

MB: Yes, that's the building on the northeast corner.

AA: Northeast corner of Chardon Square and North Street. Grandma Basquin, mother's mother, lived at the top of North Hambden hill at 213 I think the number is. It's an old house there. In the diaries that I'm reading I found that my grandfather came into Chardon with his team and looked for a place to retire to. He wasn't very well. He never recovered from his Civil War wounds and he was going to retire from farming and come into town. So he came in and rented a house from Mrs. Warner, Mrs. Mary Warner I think her name was, or

Warren, one or the other, either Warner or Warren.. .

MB: Warren sounds familiar.

AA: ...who owned the house at 213. He rented that for $5 a month. He's got the particulars of that in his diary. He was allowed to cut the hay; allowed to put the garden in. He thought he wasn't going to take possession until the first of July, I think. He came up and made the garden, put a garden in up here. There was a barn there and he moved some hay up and some grain, had the garden. He was to put a roof on the place; the place needed a roof. And he was quite a carpenter from what I read in the diary. He did cabinet work and he did all sorts of things so he put screen doors on the place and he fixed the porch up and he ended up buying it. So he and my grandmother lived there until he died in 1914 and then Grandmother kept right on living there. She'd be living there yet I think if she hadn't fallen down the cellar stairs. She fell down the cellar stairs at 99 and didn't bounce back from that. But for several winters before she was 99 she would come into Lee Road. After we moved up on Lee Road in Shaker Heights in 1928, she used to come in almost every winter, especially the last few winters she came in and stayed all winter with us in the wintertime because of course she didn't have any automatic heating arrangements. She didn't want to go downstairs; she didn't think it was smart. That was her downfall was going down the cellar stairs. The house must be 150 years old and it's go cellar stairs built into it just like a ladder. It was a great place to play down cellar. They had a cistern down there and they gathered their own rain water off the roof for soft water to wash with. They had a pitcher pump by the kitchen as I remember and a beautiful big range, coal and wood range to heat the water with.

MB: Then after she was gone, Ward bought it.

AA: Ward bought it and he changed it around some. He took the woodshed off the back end. It had an inside well, water well on the back porch so you could get your water in the summertime, or in the wintertime without going out in the back yard. They had a beautiful convenience in the back yard with a grape arbor going through it. My grandfather built an inside privy in the woodshed, believe it or not, to be used in the wintertime which was completely independent and self-contained so it didn't contaminate the well that was right on the same back porch. This convenience was available to the house through a back door through the bedroom so he didn't have to go outside. He didn't have to put his shoes on to go to the bathroom in the wintertime. He was relatively ingenious for the time. The house had a built-in water well and a built-in toilet besides a woodshed.

MB: He made it as convenient as he possibly could.

AA: When Uncle Ward moved up there he changed around the living room, took out the downstairs bedroom to enlarge the living room, put a fire place in, throw the privy out, throw the woodshed out back so he could have a fireplace on that wall and tore down the barn which was a great place to play. He had a nice barn back there. Grandma lived until 1945, the same year my son was born in 1945. That was the year we built the house because I can remember sitting in the parlor at her place getting ready for the funeral services and we could hear them blasting for my cellar at Allynd Boulevard.

MB: How many children did you have?

AA: I had two. I've got a daughter Jeanne, J-E-A-N-N-E, whose middle name is Goodrich. Now her middle name is Allyn and her last name is Molzon, M-O-L-Z-O-N. She and her husband Bill have three children. I've got a grandson, 16, and a grandson, 13, and a granddaughter, 9. Then Spike and Len have a son Anderson Allyn III who is 9, and Aric Allyn who, that's A-R-I-C, and he's....

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

TAPE 2, SIDE 1

...Aric was 15 months old the 14th of July, the 15th of July. My son Spike, so-called Spike, which is a nickname is Anderson Alvin Allyn, Jr., but that's a pretty weighty handle to carry around so he's perfectly contented to be called Spike. He'll be a junior as long as I'm around. But his son, whose nickname is Duke, will always carry a handle of three, he's number three, Anderson Alvin Allyn III. You don't lose that on the demise of your ancestors I guess.

MB: No, I guess not. (Tape recorder off and on) This is a continuation of Andy Allyn's tape, tape number 2. Today is August 13, 1979. We have talked about you yourself up until you graduated from high school, then what?

AA: Well, I graduated in June 1929 from Shaker. There was a class of 100 and I think 98 of them are going to go to college, upper middle class neighborhood and this is what you did when you went to school in the late twenties and you lived in an upper middle-class suburb. So Dad was bound to have me go to Hiram which was where he went to school. So I went to Hiram for a year and I was not really, what you call enamoured, of the operation down there. You had to take religion. Religion was the compulsory course and I just couldn't get myself into the swing of a college where you had to take religion to stay in school. So I went there one year; I went there in 1930 and then I went to Cleveland College of Western Reserve University for the year of 1930-31. By that time the Depression was really falling around us. There wasn't a lot of money in anybody's family. Dad didn't have a lot of money and he had a lot of debts, they weren't problems, but he feared they were going to turn into problems because no one knew when this thing was going to stop going down, sliding downhill. So I decided I would do some share-cropping. I went down to see my cousin Cliff Basquin down in Big Prairie (Ohio) and he said sure, you could share-crop some onions. [Clifford Basquin is the son of Ward and Varuna Basquin.] So another fellow and I, the fellow's name was Jack Carbon, Dr. Carbon's son, and he wasn't going to school either, so we were going to take a summer off and make ourselves enough money to go to school the next year by raising onions on shares. They put in for us seven acres of onions down around the muck flats down around Big Prairie. We had a shanty that used to be a chicken coop. It was about nine feet by twelve and you couldn't stand up in the back of it. It kind of had a sloping roof on it. But there was room enough for two cots and a gas stove and that was our amenities. The farm had a lot of gas wells on it so we had free gas to cook with and free gas for gas mantles, but that was the extent of our amenities. We had a board floor in the place, but there were no screens on the windows, there was no water, no sewer, and that was it. To wash our clothes, there was a creek right in back of the place so we'd take our socks down and bang them on the rocks in the creek and hang them up in the branches of the tree to dry, just like it's done now in most of the countries of the world. We used the neighboring area for a latrine. There was no special place we could call our bathhouse. We bathed in the creek and we washed our clothes in the creek and we carried drinking water about a quarter of a mile for drinking water. There was no ice, no refrigeration. We worked ten hours

driven cultivator through that about every other week besides the weeding and the other work that it took to do it. We had a good year. It was a tremendous crop. I've forgotten, I think we had somewhere over a carload, that's a railroad carload of onions per acre. I think we got about seven carloads of onions. It was a typical sharecrop operation. We had an account credit at the general store. We'd go over there Saturday night and buy our supplies and maybe go to a movie and maybe not. Then Sunday we slept and wrote letters and laid and just like we didn't have to work for a living and enjoyed ourselves. I think I was 21 at that time.

MB: You sound a little like these hippies.

AA: I dropped out about 50 years before it was stylish to drop out.

MB: Most of them when they got out of college just didn't know what to do with themselves so they'll wind up_____.

AA: We had a lot of fun. We learned discipline as far as getting our bodies in shape. We sure had to be in good shape to work as much as we did and we learned we had to eat good food in order to keep going. You just couldn't eat corn flakes without anything on it in the morning and do ten hours worth of work. There were about 30 or 40 other sharecroppers down there. Most of them were from West Virginia or Tennessee or Kentucky and they were all in the big bunkhouses and some other tenant houses around so we had a lot of social activity in the evening after we got through working at night. So it was a lot of fun. The only problem was when we had this tremendous bumper crop, it was the same all over the United States. This was back when there was no tariff protection. The rest of the world was just a little bit hungrier than the United States and so by the time they got through bringing in the Mexican onions and the South African onions and onions from all the rest of the world to compete with us, out onions didn't bring I think over four or five cents a pound. So we had a tremendous amount of work to do to make just a very few dollars. I think when we got done and we figured it out, we had netted somewhere about 12¢ an hour for our work. But we had some cash and we figured it was a good experience.

MB: And you didn't go stir crazy either.

AA: No, we were outside. The only way to keep from working out in the sunshine was to have it rain so we looked forward to a day when it rained. That sufficed as far as sharecropping goes.

MB: While we're here why don't you tell a little about who Cliff Basquin is.

AA: Cliff Basquin is one of my own cousins. He was the older son of my Uncle Ward Basquin and my Aunt Varuna Bliss Basquin, in their family. He was old enough so that he was in college during World War I so he had a chance to enlist and become an officer in World War I. He was a natural leader of men and so he went right up through the ranks and he ended up as a acting major in World War I. When he came back there was unlimited manpower in the United States. His father-in-law had this big truck farm operation down in Big Prairie and it was a natural for Cliff to take over and run the people because a truck farm in the early twenties was mostly manpower. You had to have a lot of people. So Cliff would come up to Cleveland and get Russians or Poles or somebody at one of the labor recruiting places where they got

them right off the boat and took them right down to the farm and outfit them and put them in a shanty and make farmers out of them, farmhands. So he had a large operation down there. I think 300 or 400 acres doing it by hand with horses and _____.

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MB: His father was a Geauga county....

AA: Yes, you ought to interject a little bit about Ward Basquin here.

MB: Well, I thought an awful lot of him and he was a wonderful man to work for. His girls never did anything wrong. I've seen him stand up to the counter if there'd been a mistake made and oh, no, it wasn't the girls that did it and he'd face them down you know. Never admitted--of course we never made many mistakes. He loved to laugh. In this day of sour pusses, I can thoroughly appreciate what we had with Mr. Basquin. He was always picking on somebody and getting everybody to roaring in the office.

AA: He had a great sense of humor and he was one of the few men that I knew who had reached his position in life who didn't drive a car and didn't want to drive a car. He lived close enough so he could walk to the courthouse all the time he worked up there.

MB: Always someone would take him when he wanted to go.

AA: When he wanted to go anywhere, there was always some way of getting there.

MB: His health wasn't good, to begin with. He spent a good many days at home because he couldn't because he just couldn't get himself up the hill.

AA: He had a bad heart, but the bad heart operated for him for 86 years didn't it?

MB: Yes. Well, he had lots of sick spells. You wouldn't believe how many times he was just done in. And she did too quite a bit, but they seemed to have them one at a time so that he took care of her or she took care of him. I went down to see her one day after work and he had his apron on and he was cooking supper. He said, "Now you're going to stay to supper." The most gracious man that ever lived. And I of course didn't want to and I said, "Oh, no, Edna will have supper ready for me." "If you walk out that door, you won't work in the Recorder's Office another day." Well, of course I stopped. And he served Varuna, V-A-R-U-N-A, a name's that hardly ever heard, and I in royal fashion. He didn't even sit down to eat with us. He ate his lunch in the kitchen. "You girls visit," he says. You can see him, and that's the kind of man he was. One time there was a black man came in and he couldn't sign his name, he came into the office. And Mr. Basquin says, "You can too." No, he couldn't write his name. "Yes, you can." "No, I can't." Mr. Basquin says, "If you're that bad off, I'll teach you how to write your name. So he took the man's hand and wrote the man's name thirty time with his hand right on his guiding it. "Now," he says, "I want you to write your name." And you know the man did. It was readable.

AA: He didn't have to make his mark then.

MB: I don't know whether he kept on using it or now, but he didn't like it because somebody couldn't write his own name.

AA: He outlived Aunt Varuna by several years which amazed everybody in the family. I suppose up to the courthouse too. She seemed to be sturdier than he did until it got right down to the end.

MB: The thing that took her out of the office was cataracts on her eyes. She got so she couldn't see. There was an awful eyestrain in that office. But we didn't see much of them after he retired. He didn't come in much. If you saw him, you had to go down there. But they were grand people, both of them.

AA: After Varuna died, he moved up into Grandmother Basquin's house at the top of the hill.

MB: They both moved up there.

AA: I guess they did. Cliff outlived Grandmother Basquin. I'd forgotten that. She died in 1945 or 1944 I think, 1944, 1945, in 1945 because Frank was just four or five months old when we went to her funeral.

MB: It was a happy home there for a few years after your Grandma Basquin went.

AA: Aunt Varuna must have lived into the fifties. Then Uncle Ward lived until the late fifties, I believe.

MB: I think Howard Hollenbeck came in to replace him as recorder in the early 1960's, 1961 or something.

AA: Getting back to my lifelong career, after my stint as a sharecropper, one of my good friends in high school, his uncle owned a small contracting operation and did repair work on concrete structures. The home office was in Chicago, but for some reason this man lived in Shaker. His nephew, my sidekick, started to work for them and then he wanted me to get a job with them. So I started to work for this construction company, it must have been in 1932 when the only kind of work being done anywhere was either by the railroads, which were still pretty well off in 1932, and they were just beginning to get some of these federal projects off dead center, 1932 or 1933. I worked for that company, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, for about four years I guess. It was a great job for a young man because you work like crazy all summer long. It got to be miserable weather along in November and December and you just declared a holiday until next spring so I got to go to Florida when nobody went to Florida. I went down with my folks and had a ball down there. The only problem was that you had to have the United States as your territory. You were living in YMCA's or boarding houses in Michigan or New York State or Pennsylvania, somewhere, Ohio, or further west or further south, it all depended. There were four or five crews out and it meant whose crew you were assigned to. I started to go with 'Trude (Gertrude) in 1935 I guess it was, 1934, or 1935. The job I was on then was repairing a bridge for Cuyahoga County over the Chagrin-Solon Road down where it goes over the river, down at the bottom of the valley there which needed to be repaired concretewise. For some reason I drew service on that bridge so I could live at home and commute out to work. So I was going with 'Trude pretty hard. I got hurt on that job. I got hurt, just a fluky deal. I got phlebitis going in my left foot which immobilized me and I worked it out so it immobilized me in Chardon. And being a gracious hostess, I ended up at the Goodrich place and I was then told to stay put for about three weeks I guess with my foot up all the time so I was immobilized at Clyde and Bessie Goodrich's house as a non-paying guest for about three weeks. But 'Trude was an excellent nurse and I had a

great time and we got along fine and time went fast and I got so I could get around again. But she thought it wasn't the job for anyone who was going to get married to be on the road. It was worse than being in the navy. Because we didn't know where we were going to be or how long. So the idea was for me to get a job so I could be home and established in one special locale. So I used my dad's friends again. And George Quay, Q-U-A-Y, was a friend of his, who had a brother who was sales manager at National Acme Company. They weren't hiring anybody at the time, but by getting a word put in here and a word put in there, when they got ready to hire, you get a chance to get called. So I went in and made an application and in about, I don't know whether it was a week, two weeks, or a month, but pretty soon I got a call to come in. There was a job in there if I wanted it. So I went in. I had ended up in the construction business as a gang foreman. I was living high on the hog. I was making I guess $2.50 an hour or something like that. I had all my own expenses to pay, but this was a princely salary, because when I started at National Acme, the NRA was in effect, and they couldn't pay me any less than 40¢ an hour. So I started in there from a $2.50 an hour job, I started at 40¢ an hour for 40 hours a week and I was doing the next thing up from sweeping the floor which was taking the buhrs off steel parts with a file. I did that for 40¢ an hour for a 40 hour week which made me $16 a week gross pay. This was back before there was any social security so you made $16 and you got $16. In 1937 'Trude and I got married and I told my foreman.... By that time I had bounced around and I had two or three promotions in the plant. I got away from filing things for a living to where I was putting things together and then I was making things and pretty soon I was adjusting things. Every one is a step up it seems, in that company anyway. It got to the point where we got married and I told my foreman I was going to get married and I wanted to have a week off. This was back before you had any vacations. There was no social security and no vacations and no paid holidays, no union, no coffee hours either, no coffee breaks. I remember that very distinctly when they first started that. He said, fine, you can have a week off I guess, we won't miss you that much, but when you come back, come back on nights. He gave me a 20¢ an hour raise so I went from 40% an hour to 60¢ an hour so I made $16 a week as a married man, but I was working the afternoon shift from 4:00 or 5:00 I guess, to midnight. Trude was teaching the first grade up here in Chardon. She went to work at 7:30 in the morning and she'd come home and have lunch with me at noon. I'd get up and get her noon meal and we'd have lunch together, then she would go back to school and then I would pack my lunch and go in and go to work and get home about midnight. We didn't see too much of each other for about three or four months before the boss relented my taking a week off for a vacation, but I'd only worked there a couple of years.

MB: That was pretty short, wasn't it?

AA: Then following right after that in the 1937's and so on, then they started the lend lease operation to help out England because England was starting to go down the tube in 1939. Mr. Roosevelt saw that coming. He got social security started and we got coffee breaks initiated at the plant. We had a sit-in strike at the plant where they welded the doors shut and we were all inside. I was in one of the first sit-in strikes in Cleveland. Then we started right off on World War II. That was really something. About the week after Pearl Harbor, my boss called me in and he said there's about six guys out here that are like you that are real ambitious and want to

get someplace. He inferred that I was somewhat ambitious. He says if you go down and enlist, I'm going to drag you out and you'll never work days again as long as I'm in this plant. This is going to be your war effort, you're going to work here because we had been making machines to send to Russia and England to make shells on. And of course after Pearl Harbor we started to make machinery like there was no tomorrow. We made machines and we set up whole plants. By this time I'd gotten over this home job business and I was all over the United States for National Acme Company and Trude couldn't do anything about it. Here was World War II and they were paying me to go here and set up a shell machine, and there, so I went all over all during World War II and got everybody else's problems sorted out, as much as I could. By the time World War II was over I was totally convinced that National Acme didn't know how to run a business. We could see waste and inefficiency. There were three of us fellows that were on the road and who had been in a lot of different plants and we would bring back and compare notes when we'd get together about how this fellow did things and how that fellow did things and so on. We could plainly see that National Acme just had a few more years to go before it was completely busted and out of business because they were so inefficient. We had seen, I had seen myself, people making $100 an hour on a machine. The guy didn't know where to put the steel in the machine. He just simply got a contract and he got a job and the government furnished the machinery. These people were just coining money like there was no tomorrow. People would try to bribe us to do things for them, they would try to hire us away from National Acme and everything else to keep their plants going for them. We decided that with our vast knowledge that we had about how to make the machines go, it would be a cinch to make any amount of money, but we would be real smart and we wouldn't start out own business until after the war was over. By that time we could see if the thing wound down in Europe and pretty soon it wound down in Japan, in August wasn't it? We finished up in August?

MB: Yes.

AA: So we started our company the day after Labor Day 1945, Chardon Metal Products Company. It was a four-way partnership. Jim Ulmer was ten years older than I am.

MB: Spell that.

AA: Jim was James A Ulmer, U-L-M-E-R. He was ten years older than I was almost to the day. Then I was the middle guy. Then there was a fellow by the name of Merrill E. Barden Jr. B-A-R-D-E-N, M-E-R-R-I-L-L, Merrill Barden Jr. Merrill married Jane that lived out on South Street. I can't think of her name now, but I'll think of it sooner or later. We'll interject that later on. Anyway there were three of us, Merrill, he was called Jr. He was six foot five and weighed about 230 pounds, but he was junior. He was five years younger than I was. Then Clyde was going to put up the capital. Clyde put up $2500 in capital.

MB: Clyde who?

AA: Clyde W. Goodrich, my father-in-law. We had a four-way partnership. We started out down in Dietrich's horseshoeing place. That old tin building down west of the cemetery on Park Street. Do you know Charley Dietrich? The one that real deaf that was the shoemaker, horseshoer.

MB: Horseshoer, blacksmith in other words.

AA: Blacksmith, he was a real blacksmith. He had a dirt floor in his shop. It was about thirty by forty I guess. It was a good size building made out of tin. It had no insulation on it. It had electricity in it, but it had a dirt floor. It had a board floor for the office. We were able to rent that I think for $20 a month when we started out in 1945. We had the business and we had an unlimited order immediately. I went down and saw Johnson Rubber Company and an operation in Cleveland called Premier Auto Ware, Premier Auto Parts or something like that. Both wanted some parts made so badly you could just taste it and we thought we could make them. So we went out and found an old junker machine that we put together, bought it, put it down there in the shop, in Dietrich's blacksmith shop and ran the machine evenings, nights, and Sundays, and Saturdays when we didn't go into National Acme Company. We all told our bosses at National Acme what we were doing, that we'd started a business and we were going to try and run both things if we could. So he said more power to us. He'd watch out for National Acme if we'd watch out for ourselves. He was real nice about it. He didn't fire us or threaten us or anything else. So we knew that we had to toe the mark in there. It got to be kind of a hassle and Merrill wanted out first. Merrill had a chance to go with one of the big companies. I think he went with General Motors Company, one of the bearing divisions of General Motors Company. So he sold his share of the partnership to the three of us, which wasn't much for us to pay. Then in another year or so Jim had a nice promotion in National Acme and he said he wasn't going to be able to do any good out here. So his partnership was available. So Clyde and I bought his partnership out. Then I had a major operation in 1947. This was about the time this happened, 1947. Then Jim decided he would take advantage of his new promotion toabetter job in there and his became available. So Clyde and I ran it after I got back to work. National Acme wouldn't let me quit. They just said hang on and see how you feel. So I didn't turn in my resignation at National Acme until election day in 1948, and I was operated on in April of 1947. All the time I was on sick leave, they paid me my full salary. In fact when I was the sickest in the hospital, my boss called me up and he said he had a little good news for me. This is when I had a special nurse, three nurses a day. I was in Huron Road and it was just touch and go whether I was going to make it or not. So he said it was some good news that wouldn't take long for me to hear so he thought he would just call on the day and say you got a raise for such and such. By that time I was on salary at National Acme and he had given me a beautiful raise. It was $100 a month or something like that which was quite a raise in 1947. So I convalesced at National Acme's expense. I finally went in and resigned because I just wasn't going to haul myself back and forth and try to work out here. So I became fully employed for better or for worse at Chardon Metal Products Company after election in 1948. By 1950 I guess we'd outgrown the blacksmith shop.

END OF SIDE 1, TAPE 2
SIDE 2, TAPE 2

We outgrew the blacksmith shop about 1950 I guess it was. George Rimes was building his garage and we were able to convince him to build a shop on the back of that for us to have our machine shop in. So he built another two or three extra bays on the back, truck bays. And we had the shop back there from 1950 I guess it was until 1955 by which time they wanted the garage badly enough that they raised our rent and told us it was going to keep going

up until we moved out. In 1955 Clyde and I looked around for aplace to build a shop. There was nothing available in the village that was big enough. There were two areas: we could buy some acreage down by the railroad tracks on Water Street where there used to be at this time, the old baseball diamond, or we could buy some farm acreage over on _____ which is Fifth Avenue which wasn't developed at all. We decided the ground over on Fifth Avenue was higher ground. The baseball diamond had the unfortunate habit of flooding when it got to be real wet. The extra cost of the land wasn't going to be that much cheaper to build because we could build a building over here on Fifth Avenue and not have to build it up off the ground, we wouldn't have to put any big amount of fill in. So we built a built a building about half again as big as our building on Washington Street that we were renting from George Rime. We build 6,000 square feet over there. When we got the think pretty well going, we discovered that you couldn't take a semi-trailer and tractor over the railroad tracks on Fifth Avenue. It was too steep. It was just like a toonerville trolley crossing. You remember it went up one sidek and the tracks are up here and they came down on the other. So I gave the village the dirt in back of our plant if the would put it down there so we could use the street. It was a dedicated street though so the village had some responsibility in it. So they moved the dirt down there, they moved about 4,000 yards of dirt down there so there was a grade crossing that you could get across the railroad tracks with atruck. But there was still just a pure mud road. So we built the plant down there and we put a couple of steel drums out front, what was going to be the front yard, for a septic system. There was no water there so we brought water from the house next door which was where the old Wozneak family lived, in a garden hose, and brought it across and put it in our plant for water. We had a garden hose water main and we had a steel drum septic system out front there until the village got the water lines and sewer lines built on the west side of the railroad track.

MB: How long did that take?

AA: I think they did that in 1956 I'm pretty sure. We moved in in October of 1955. We had one whole winter there of really roughing it. I bought a Jeep because you couldn't get up that hill with anything bigger than a Jeep, a four-wheel drive vehicle. I've got a picture of that down there with my Jeep out there and it's right down to the axles. The roads are just like the old fashioned ones your know, eight to ten inches deep.

MB: But you can hardly imagine that you can live through it.

AA: You can't imagine what a mud road looks like in the wintertime when you drive a car on it unless you see it. It's hard to believe how much it gets cut up. We started out with 6,000 feet there which was, as I say, half as much bigger again as we ever had before. By 1967, the first 12 years, we'd built on another 4,000 feet I think we did that year. Then we built on another 6,000 or 8,000 feet in 1971, then we built the offices on. We built the office space in 1975. So now we've got 22,500 square feet, just a little less than half an acre under one roof and it still isn't big enough. But civilization had come right up around us. We're the oldest plant over there by far.

MB: This is the industrial park.

AA: This is the industrial park. (The phone rings)
If you're a little bit curious about what we do, we are what is commonly known as a contract manufacturer which is another way of saying we're a job shop. What we do is work for people on a contract basis. We bid on the cost of making X number of pieces of whatever anybody wants. Most of the stuff we make is in the form of steel parts that are components for usually large pieces of equipment. We make parts for General Electric's Locomotive Division up in Erie, Pennsylvania, which is probably our single biggest customer now. We make parts for them, we make parts for Rockwell International that amakes off the highway equipment. We make parts for Clark Equipment Company who make off the highway construction equipment, cranes and drag lines and things like that. We do tubing work and the combination of the tubing work and the screw machine work making these big fittings has been sort of a natural way of getting stuff put together. I'll smile this time if you want me too. (As Maude takes a picture of Andy) I'll smile now, a little bit anyway. We do primarily work for larger corporations. We're happier working for people like General Electric or General Motors than we are for people that have small operations. We find they're a little bit more secure as far as credit risk goes and if you make a good part for them, they usually come back and buy some more from you. Any part we make has been bid on a basis that we can make the best or the cheapest or both for the people they have invited to bid on the parts. So metal working, we do mostly steel work, some aluminum, some brass, some stainless steel. About 50¢ out of every sales dollar is in the tubing side so we have about a fifty-fifty mix. It's a growing business. My son Spike is coming along well. He's been there about ten years now. He's now vice president in charge of manufacturing and sales. He's now going out and making the sales calls that I used to do. I used to do the whole thing, set the machines up.

MB: Is that Number one son?

AA: That's Number one son; that's the only son I have. He's Number One boy there. Number One man now really, he's 35. Georgiana Richards has been there 32 years this fall. She started when we were over on Washington Street when she had a little tiny baby that Dad was doctoring, her daughter, Mary Beth, who only lived until she was 18. She needed to go back to work she said, and I needed someone to come down and do the invoicing and stuff and so we set up a cardtable on Washington Street, one corner of the garage and borrowed my wife's portable typewriter. She'd come down and she'd type up the invoices a couple hours a day. This was 32 years ago and she's been doing it ever since.

MB: A very capable gal.

AA: She does a great job. She's in charge of the office now, secretary-treasurer of the corporation. Spike's vice presidentk and I'm president. And that's the way Chardon Metal Products goes. We sell mostly east of the Mississippi. One good customer in Texas and we used to send some stuff out to the state of Washington and some to California, but 95% of our dollars are east of the Mississippi.

MB: How many do you hire?

AA: There's about 50 on the payroll now. I think we have eight sales representatives out there getting work for us. Spike handles the top three or four himself.

We have a specialist to take care of General Electric, another one for Clark and so on, but mostly it's a small operation. We've got five girls in the office now and about 44 out in the plant now, 46.

MB: Partly women?

AA: About a third or more are women; maybe close to half. I've never counted up lately. There's one other man in the office; Spike, myself, and George Wilford are the three men in the office. Then we've got Josephine_____ at the reception, and we've got Delphine Milgate as bookkeeper and Georgiana as secretary-treasurer, _____as cost accounting, and Pam Rodgers as cost and filing. Then out in the plant--there must be about half the people in the plant are women. That's the story of Chardon Metal Products and me.

MB: This is where you're at.

AA: This is where I'm at right now.

MB: Well, this is an interesting life. You haven't hardly been still a minute.

AA: About twenty years ago I was able to talk my wife into going on a freighter with me. She went on a freighter with me the year after my aunt and I went on a freighter together. She wouldn't go the first time I went, but I went and had a tremendous time, showed her the pictures and she decided she would go. So we went for about eighteen years, I guess, on freighters together.

MB: I guess it's fun. Everybody that does it likes it.

AA: You've got to do it when you're resonably young though because you have trouble getting on after you're seventy. Some lines. Most of the American lines are reluctant to take you on after you're seventy or seventy-two. But we've got in eighteen or so cruises before that and now she'll go on cruise ships with me. I still like to go on afreighter every now and then though and I can still get on some of the lines. I haven't got anything planned for this year yet, but I hope to go on a banana boat maybe this fall. Go through the Panama Canal and up the west coast, up the Pacific side of Costa Rica, get a load of bananas and bring them back. That's more fun than a cruise ship.

MB: I suppose you'd go out and help get them probably.

AA: I went up to the plantation last time. I went down two years ago and we took a ride up on the narrow gauge train up to the plantation and saw the whole process. They took us around and we had a lot of fun. That's the story.

MB: Well, I certainly do appreciate this.

AA: I hope some of it is of some worth to you.

MB: Sure, it's history. Now we're going to do a little reminiscing about Chardon. This is Andy's pet job I think, to try and keep track of the old fellows and we both remember them when they used to sit up along Main Street and spit tobacco juice out in the street if they could reach it and some of these crazy things that men used to do. I don't think you see it much anymore do you?

AA: Well, the world has changed. It used to be that the barber shops were explicitly male domain, two or three of them on Main Street as I remember.

MB: Archie Greene.

AA: Archie Greene had a big....

MB: Hal I mean.

AA: Hal, Humppy.

MB: Why do you call him Humppy?

AA: Well, I've heard him called Humppy. I was too young to call him anything but Mr. Greene. He had a big, it seemed to me, one of the biggest rooms in the whole village here. We'd go up there and it was always cool and dark back there and smelled of cuspidors and cigar smoke. I think there were four billard tables back of the barber stands and there was always someone in there shooting a game of billiards or pool. I guess it was pool mostly that they played.

MB: I know that was the _____of the high school to keep their kids out of the pool room.

AA: It was a no-nO if you were high school age or younger to go into a pool room, couldn't do this legally.

MB: But lots of boys did.

AA: Oh, yes. They had big high chairs along the wall and you could sit up on the chairs and watch the guys shoot pool. They kept score with the wires overhead. It was a great place, all cigars and a lot of cuspidors around. This was back during the great drought when it was Prohibition. So they sold_____beer which went over just like a lead balloon. Then Bud Culp had a pool room and barber shop up at this end. There was a pool room-barbershop up on the second floor way up at the north end of the square here. Henry Burr was up there.

MB: Henry Burr was an undertaker.

AA: Henry was, but in his later years went back to barbering.

MB: He got so he couldn't take the undertaking business anymore and went back to being a barber which he had started out as.

AA: I went up to get my hair cut by him when I was getting married in 1937 and he was busy and I was in a hurry and so I took Rob Whitney. Was he a relation of yours?

MB: His wife.

AA: Well, I won't speak ill of him any more than I can help.

MB: He didn't do a good job, huh?

AA: I should say that he would, that he had tasted of the cup that cheers, so he

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gave me a real severe haircut on one side. We got to talking and I looked up and I was scalped on one side. I says, "Bob, I've got to do something about this." So he says, "Well, I'll make it even." So he scalped me on the other side. So when my wife saw me, she wept. I had a haircut way over the top of my ears, all because Henry was busy. Henry could cut your hair and reminisce at the same time. I wish these tape recorders had been invented back then so we could have gotten some of those old boys on.

MB: I would like to have gathered around Vern Smith, George Reid, Al Kims used to hang out over there, and I don't know how many, Fleet Smith, of course, is one of the....

AA: Before them there was John Thrasher and Ned Wakeman on Main Street. They would gather up here on a plank on Main Street. John wasn't in the Civil War was he? Cul Thrasher wasn't a Civil War veteran was he?

MB: Cul might have been, I don't know.

AA: I can remember the old veterans marching. They used to march in Decoration Day parades in Chardon. We would come out from Cleveland because it was a prerequisite as I recall for getting your report cards in Chardon.

MB: Well, the band had to play and the kids had to march.

AA: The kids had to march in order to get their report cards didn't they?

MB: In order to get their passing grades.

AA: Then the Civil War veterans and two or three Spanish-American war veterans, and of course the First World War veterans were just kids, just back. As I recall the American Legion hadn't been really very active out here before World War II had it?

MB: If the people today had the patriotism that the Civil War soldiers had, I don't think we'd have all this trouble in the country that we're into now. They were just, oh, my, the Civil War veterans.

AA: The Civil War, they called themselves Comrades, the Civil War Comrades. And they had their national meetings and they were always called encampments.

MB: But in their minutes--I've seen their minute book, Comrade So and So moved that we do thus and so.

AA: We're all comrades. My grandmother, my father's mother remarried in 1914. She married a Civil War veteran by the name of Nelson A. Stevens from Montville. He lived until I was 22 or 23 years old. I talked to him at some length. I didn't make any notes of course, about the Civil War experiences. But he could tell some pretty interesting stories about how they walked. It amazed me how far they walked in the Civil War. Rarely did they get a chance to ride on a train. There wasn't much in the way of troop movements by train. They mostly walked.

MB: They took one to get them down there.

AA: But once they got down to the Ohio River, they pretty much walked all the way.

He talked about walking from Kentucky to Tennessee once. He was in light artillery regiment. They had horses of course, and limber but I guess over half of them weren't mounted. Half of them didn't get a chance to ride on the limber and stuff. They could fill their packs and stuff on the limber then they walked.

MB: What are you calling a limber

AA: The limber is a set of wheels they put under the tongue of the cannon to pick the cannon up to move it. Light artillery pieces have got wheels and an axle that the cannon rests on, then the trail, the limber, or the trail is the long part of the cannon that goes down and touches the ground and they had a hitch on that that they put on a set of wheels in front that they call the limber. That carried the ammunition.

MB: They had one up to the festival one year.

AA: Yes, there are still some around, but they have been rebuilt.

MB: I got pictures of that just as they fired the cannon.

AA: Is that when they fired the cannon down Main Street and blew a few windows out?

MB: Blew windows out up on the third floor.

AA: Second or third floors. That made a dandy boom.

MB: It was a boom. I was right in the middle of it. I don't know whether I took a picture or not. I know the clicker went down. But I did get, even one of the boy's coats had a stitch in it that let loose, a rip in his coat. But I never heard it called that. How do you spell it?

AA: L-I-M-B-E-R. When they were going to move from one place to another, the whole camp, they would hook up, I think it was an eight-horse team, either a six or eight-horse team and they had two sets of limbers, then the cannon. So there was a six-wheeled sort of a flexible piece of mechanism that could get over the country. It didn't take a road to get them over. You could go over some pretty rough terrain with it and that's what they specialized in back then, in the 1860's was rough terrain, very few roads.

MB: Most of their battles were right out in the wilderness.

AA: ~~Well, Uncle Nelson~~, Uncle Nelson Stevens was that grandfather, he gave me his civil war canteen, and he gave me his sword. He was a corporal I think so he carried a non-commissioned officer's sword, artillery sword which I still have, and his canteen. And we made two or three junkets out into Montville to see if we could find where he left his Civil War musket but we never caught up with that. Somebody had put the arm on it by the time we got around to getting it. This was in the late twenties and he couldn't find it. He lived until the thirties, 1932 or 1933 I guess. We never did find his Civil War musket.

Top here

MB: I've been thinking about writing--I don't know what you would call it--a history of the park or what you would call it or what, things that have gone on up there and you know that was a great place for militia to train. They were always coming to town and marching, held their maneuvers anyway. So many things have taken place there, many probably that you couldn't even think of.

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AA: Have you got a good close-up picture of that watering trough they had up there, that cast iron watering trough?

MB: I don't think so.

AA: That was a very nice watering trough. I think Gerald _____ ended up with that one, didn't he? I think it's down in _____ old back yard down on South Street, I think. I'm not sure. But that had a dog watering place on it and a horse watering place on it and didn't it have a water fountain too, or a place to get...

MB: A tin cup I guess.

AA: ...a tin cup to get a drink of water.

MB: It had a post that went up a little, didn't it, or something?

AA: There were a couple of pumps up there, a couple of wells in the park, weren't there? There was a well down by the crosswalk.

MB: No, that watering trough was the one by the jail that was run by _____.

AA: Oh, that's why they've got water over there where the windmill is.

MB: Then before that they had an open kind of a fountain like thing, I guess, and the water was pumped up from South Hambden Street or the King farm.

AA: Is that when they had the steam engine down in the light plant to pump the water uptown?

MB: I don't know. What did they call those pumps?

AA: Well, there was a hydraulic ram.

MB: A ram, yes, it was done by ram.

AA: I don't ever remember a hydraulic ram uptown.

MB: All I know is what I've read.

AA: I've got a picture of the windmill over by where the jail is now. That brings up an interesting thing: I'm trying to find a windmill right now. I want to put a windmill in my backyard down on Allynd Boulevard and drill a well there and pump my own water so that I can have well water to drink for one thing. I can have well water for my fish ponds and fountain I have back down there. The city water seems to kill my fish off about as fast as I can put them in.

MB: They get so they put so much stuff in it.

AA: It's got so much stuff in it, it kills the fish. And then I think there's someplace you ought to be able to get a drink of water if the power goes off.

MB: Would you dare drink it?

AA: Oh, I'll get it cleared by the Health Department. It's real easy to do.

You drill a well and put it in right and you get good water.

MB: You know, I've still got a bucket well out here.

AA: You've got a bell and chain well or bucket well?

MB: One with a rope.

AA: Has it got a long_____on it?

MB: Yes.

AA: Is it good water yet?

MB: I have no idea.

AA: Why don't you get it tested? It's a simple deal. You call up the village clerk and ask them to test your water. They have to test the water in the village every so often anyway.

MB: It's hard water. I remember when we were using it here.

AA: They will give you a bacteria count on it and tell you whether it's all right to drink.

MB: It's probably full of something when you hang a bird feeder over it. It's covered up with my bird feeder.

AA: That should clear it all right.

MB: It was working a few years ago when we got short on water I used it a little.

AA: Is the rope all right?

MB: I don't know where the rope is or anything about it anymore.

AA: You still got the long bucket?

MB: It's supposed to be out in the barn.

AA: Is there an automobile in that barn by any chance?

MB: No.

AA: You're sure nobody parked a car out there 30, 40, or 50 years ago?

MB: Not that I know of.

AA: Any barn that's as well kept up as that on the outside with the doors all closed always intrigues me whether there's an automobile or not, inside.

MB: There's no automobile, just junk.

AA: Is there a stall in there?

MB: No.

AA: Somebody's taken the stall out then.

MB: I suppose it was a horse barn probably, because it's a pretty good driveway.

AA: There's room enough for a carriage so there must have been at least one stall in it.

MB: It was a horse barn. Osborn built this house you know. The attorney.

AA: Oh, I didn't know whose house it was.

MB: I think he's the one that built it.

AA: Are you sure this isn't Osborn here?

MB: I don't know.

AA: Well, if I can take this along I will try to get it identified when I get the slides made when we put it on the screen. We'll take it down to one of those evening shots at oral history and maybe somebody will know who it is.

MB: I think that Osborn's old fireplace was about his biggest addition. It's a town fireplace they used to call them, you,know, a townhouse.

AA: It's a working fireplace isn't it?

MB: I haven't used it since Edna died because I found out it was no fun to build a fire for myself, but it works.

AA: Clyde and Bessie had one like that in their house over on Goodrich Court, tile and all.

MB: The tile is in pretty good shape. There's one or two broken.

AA: Have you got the cast iron front for that?

MB: That's all there is.

AA: Oh, you didn't have a cast iron front on it. Some of them came with a cast iron front that either folded back or you took off.

MB: This is the way it's always been, so if there was anything else there, it's been taken off.

AA: They were primarily a coal burning fireplace.

MB: Coalburning, strictly coal.

AA: There isn't enough room for wood in it.

MB: No, not much. Speaking of Clyde Goodriches and my going down to Basquins, I went over to talk about something I was trying to run down, and she said, "Come on, stay to supper with us. " And I said, "Oh, I don't want to bother you." "No bother at all, Clyde's getting the supper," she said. And lo and behold, didn't he serve a very nice supper. I don't know, did he do a lot of

the cooking?

AA: He didn't do an awful lot of it, but he always did, he was one of the earliest guys that I knew of that was in this togetherness thing. If it was dust and sweep the floor day, why, he would get the vacuum cleaner out. He retired when he was 50 years old. That was his idea of success in this world was to be able to retire when he was 50.

MB: He was about one of the last men that had that idea. It used to be, long before his time, it was quite popular to make your fortune and then retire and then they did all sorts of philanthropic things.

END OF TAPE

Transcriptionist: Sylvia Wiggins